

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 11 and 15 have been amended. Claims 8, 10, 14 and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 9, 11 and 15-17 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 9, 10 and 15 were objected to because of informalities. Appropriate correction has been made to claims 9 and 15 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 10 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objections is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 102 and 103

Claims 1-5, 9-11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Tamaru et al. (US 6,894,967) (hereinafter "Tamaru").

Independent claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 8, 14 and 19, respectively, and are therefore now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 11, 16 and 17 depend on one of claims 1, 9 and 15, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 8, 14 and 19 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 8, 14 and 19 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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